



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate fell five-tenths of a percentage point from July to August, 2001, in the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) as shown in Northeast Idaho Table 1. The current rate of 3.0 percent is the lowest it has been for more than a year. Since 1998, the lowest rate the LMA has seen is 3.2 percent in June, 2001, and several months of 3.3 percent in 2000 and 2001. For a comparison of rates from 1998 to the present, see graph below—**Bonneville LMA Unemployment Rates**. In the graph, every month to the current shows that 2001 rates have been noticeably lower than all the previous years.

Butte experienced a large decrease in the month-over-month unemployment rate over—from 4.6 to 2.9 percent. All other counties also decreased, with Bonneville (2.7 percent) and Bingham (3.9 percent) counties decreasing three-tenths of a percentage point each and Jefferson County (3.1 percent) decreasing seven-tenths of a percentage point. A year-over-year comparison shows that the LMA decreased three-tenths of a percentage point, with Bonneville and Butte counties each decreasing three-tenths of a percentage point, Bingham County decreasing four-tenths of a percentage point, and Jefferson County increasing three-tenths of a percentage point. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased four-tenths of a percentage point from July and decreased three-tenths of a percentage point from August of 2000.

Warehouses and processing plants gradually started back up after laying off employees for annual maintenance the previous month. Workers are being hired as part of harvest preparation, and construction jobs are plentiful in the area. Madison County, which is not included in the LMA, is interesting in that it has held the lowest unemployment rate in the state for the past year, and currently sits at 1.7 percent. Although

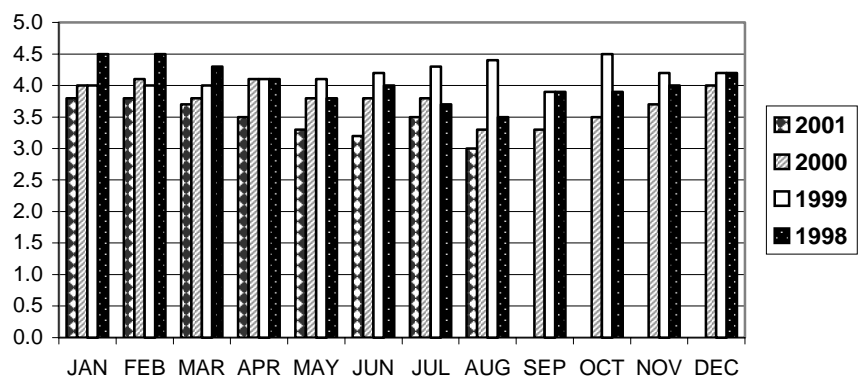
Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	August 2001*	July 2001	August 2000	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,820	83,890	80,480	-0.1	4.2
Unemployment	2,550	2,910	2,680	-12.4	-4.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0%	3.5%	3.3%		
Total Employment	81,270	80,990	77,800	0.3	4.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,630	84,660	81,350	0.0	4.0
Unemployment	3,380	2,550	3,500	32.5	-3.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0%	3.0%	4.3%		
Total Employment	81,250	82,100	77,850	-1.0	4.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	63,920	64,670	62,710	-1.2	1.9
Goods-Producing Industries	10,370	10,420	9,600	-0.5	8.0
Mining & Construction	5,150	5,090	4,380	1.2	17.6
Manufacturing	5,220	5,330	5,220	-2.1	0.0
Food Processing	2,560	2,680	2,680	-4.5	-4.5
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	500	490	570	2.0	-12.3
All Other Manufacturing	2,160	2,160	1,970	0.0	9.6
Service-Producing Industries	53,550	54,250	53,110	-1.3	0.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,370	2,390	2,320	-0.8	2.2
Wholesale Trade	5,880	6,250	5,920	-5.9	-0.7
Retail Trade	11,470	11,410	11,690	0.5	-1.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,920	1,920	1,890	0.0	1.6
Services	21,840	21,620	21,670	1.0	0.8
Government Administration	5,940	6,010	5,440	-1.2	9.2
Government Education	4,130	4,650	4,180	-11.2	-1.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Bonneville LMA Unemployment Rates



the county expects to gain more in the labor force with the growth of Brigham Young University-Idaho, it will be a gradual growth. A tight labor

market presents some employers with the need for more creative hiring practices.

The seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* showed a decrease of 70 people month-over-month, but an increase of 3,340 people from a year ago this time. Call centers and construction workers seem to be in demand along with security and restaurant/fast food workers. The population trends show that more people are entering the workforce as the 15- to 19-year-old age group matures.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (jobs by place of work) decreased by 750 over the month, for a total of 63,920 jobs in the LMA. *Goods-Producing Industries* decreased by 50 jobs month-over-month, with *Manufacturing* (loss of 110 jobs) counteracting the increase of 60 *Construction* jobs. *Manufacturing's* drop came from *Food Processing's* loss of 120 jobs as many were laid off for routine annual maintenance before new seasonal crops become available for processing. *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced an increase over the previous August of 770 jobs.

Service-Producing Industries decreased month-over-month (700 jobs). *Government Education* experienced the largest decrease (520 jobs) as some summer semesters came to an end. *Wholesale Trade* saw the next largest decrease of 370 jobs with many warehouses shut down for annual maintenance. Services showed the largest increase in jobs for the month, with *Business Services*, *Social Services* and *Non-Profit Organization* sectors being the main contributors. *Engineering & Management* was the only *Services* sector to show a loss (33 jobs). *Service-Producing Industries* showed a year-over-year gain of 440 jobs, with *Government Administration* and *Services* counteracting losses from *Trade* (mostly *Retail*) and *Government Education*.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Salmon Celebrates

Salmon is a town that has seen much activity in the last decade, with timber changes to mine closures to massive fires. However, the town is optimistic that some change can be for their good and they are working hard to prepare for the future. The Lewis and Clark Trail and Sacajawea projects are of much interest nationwide as a national celebration is set to kick off in the next several years. Salmon is expected to be one of two Idaho cities to be highly visited. The town is also focusing on economic development and many exciting improvements are in the works. Salmon remains strong and ready to adjust to whatever comes its way.

August 11-12, 2001, brought a great celebration to the town when Salmon celebrated its ninth-annual Great Salmon Valley Balloonfest and Sacajawea Heritage Days. The massive fires last year caused Salmon to cancel its festivities which would have been the ninth-annual celebration, so this year was eagerly awaited. The Sacajawea name was added to the celebration title

in 2000 since she played such a vital part in the Lewis & Clark expedition and because the Sacajawea Interpretive Center will be located in the city.

The participants enjoyed a beef barbeque, two concerts, a fun run, artifact displays, demonstrations, dance performances, Sacajawea presentations, a picnic, a mountain climb on Indian Creek, Dutch-oven brunch, and a brew fest. The balloonfest consisted of three balloons that floated over the city for three days. Balloon sponsors were even given rides in the balloons. One business donated a van that was given away in a drawing at the Brew Fest. Several area businesses sponsored the dancers of the Ft. Hall Inter-Tribal Dance Company. Their performance included a pleasant surprise when dancer Hovia Edwards, who is a world-renowned flutist, performed on her flute as well.

Sara Edlin Marlowe of Spokane gave a one-woman, first-person rendition portraying Sacajawea that she wrote herself. Artists and artisans gave arts and crafts demonstrations reminiscent of the period such as candle and soap making, woodworking, flint knapping, horseshoeing, metal working, and quilting. Artifact displays consisted of two traveling trunks of replicas of artifacts of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. The artifacts were supplied by Lewis & Clark Travel Rest Chapter of Missoula and the Idaho Historical Society of Boise. The Island Park, under the downtown Salmon bridge, was the main location for the celebration. The celebration was well attended and well received.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Urgent Care opened at 740 South Woodruff Avenue in Idaho Falls in September. The clinic is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and treats everything from minor colds to major cuts and broken bones. The clinic has an X-ray machine and can handle some lab work. It can be reached at 542-9111.

Lemhi County

- North Wind Environmental Corporation, a company specializing in resource work such as preparing biological assessments and on-the-ground restoration, opened new offices in Salmon in late August. The company contracts to supply expertise and labor to agencies in need of personnel. Local people and companies are hired whenever possible. The company already has a contract with the Bureau of Land Management. The central office is located in Idaho Falls with satellite branches in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and now Salmon. The new location is in the old roller rink building at Main and Water streets in Salmon.

Tanya Albán, Regional Labor Economist
150 Shoup Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 542-5628
E-mail: talban@labor.state.id.us